



Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One

January 2003



REPORT OF CHAPTER MEETING

Jan. 8, 2003

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Due to absences, no formal meeting was held. Larry Young, Walt Crossmon, Bub Crosby and Jack Crowther continued "hoeing out" the accumulated materials from our 20-plus years' collection of clippings, photos, publications, correspondence and miscellaneous other items.

This seemingly endless process is definitely showing results in the look of the chapter space. The two oak bookcases donated by Bub Crosby are filling up with books, videos, issues of *The Veteran* (the VVA national publication) and other items. All chapter members should feel free to view and make use of the material.

Jack Crowther has done some research on the Internet on agencies doing relief work in Vietnam with an eye to Chapter 1 contributing to this work. However, it is a bit difficult to make a judgment base solely on searching the World Wide Web. Jack wrote to VVA national for suggestions but has received no answer. Perhaps members have some ideas to contribute on the subject. A group called East Meets West, based in Oakland, Calif., appeared to be a promising avenue for helping with health, education and economic conditions, but it would be nice to have a supporting endorsement from someone familiar with international relief work.

As noted in last month's newsletter, Chapter 1 would like to have e-mail addresses of chapter members. If you would like to share your e-mail address with other chapter members please let us know and we will publish it in our Chapter 1 newsletter. We will not distribute to anyone outside of the chapter without your permission. (Keep in mind, though, that our newsletter gets posted on the State Council Web site.) Membership Chairman Dick Doyle has volunteered to collect e-mail addresses. Please e-mail him at rpdoyle39@hotmail.com.

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, Feb. 12, at VFW Post 648, Rutland. We will again meet at 6 p.m., continue to organize our chapter rooms, break for a pizza and then hold our regular meeting.

Submitted by
Jack Crowther, Secretary

THANKS TO CENTRAL VERMONT PUBLIC SERVICE CORP. SHAREHOLDERS FOR PRINTING THIS NEWSLETTER.



Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One

February 2003



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

Feb. 12, 2003

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Vice President Larry Young presided in the absence of President John Bergeron.

Six members and a guest attended, including three new faces, John Suddarth of Mendon and Paul Virtue and Paul Marcoux, both of Cambridge, N.Y. John, a former Marine, returned to Vietnam recently and will share pictures of his trip at a future meeting.

The minutes of the last formal meeting on Dec. 11 were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Andy Megrath reported \$14,072.85 in the chapter's treasury.

Dick Doyle moved to continue Chapter One's \$2,500 corporate sponsorship of the Boys and Girls Club of Rutland County. Second, Andy Megrath. Passed unanimously. The chapter will request an update from the club on its recent activities.

Chapter One elections will be held at the April meeting. Anyone interested in seeking an office should contact the chapter at the address on the other side of this newsletter, or contact a chapter officer personally.

The chapter received a request from the Fair Haven POW/MIA Memorial fund for support in erecting its planned memorial. Don Amorosi, Steve Eaton and Joe Donaldson noted in their letter that a POW-MIA vigil has taken place in the park in Fair Haven every Thursday at 7 p.m. since 1993. Donaldson is a member of Chapter One.

Jack Crowther moved to contribute \$500 to the monument. Second, Dick Doyle. Passed unanimously.

Larry Young submitted a request from the Rutland City Rescue Mission for \$100 for magazine subscriptions. Many of the mission residents are veterans. The mission also indicated it was seeking \$1,000 for a computer. Larry will ask someone from the mission to come and speak with us.

Membership Chairman Dick Doyle noted that the chapter has 119 members and 5 associate members as of the January printout.

The Chapter One members listed below have sent in their e-mail addresses to share with other members. Anyone who would like to add their name to the list can simply e-mail Dick Doyle, who is maintaining the list. Dick's e-mail is at the end of the list below:

Names removed for privacy

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, March 12, at VFW Post 648, Rutland. We will again meet at 6 p.m., and, depending on the turnout and need to conduct business, meet formally or continue to organize our chapter rooms. We'll send out for pizza as dictated by the nutritional needs of those attending.

Submitted by
Jack Crowther, Secretary

THANKS TO CENTRAL VERMONT PUBLIC SERVICE CORP. SHAREHOLDERS FOR PRINTING THIS NEWSLETTER.

VVA Chapter 1
PO Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702-6301

Address Correction Requested



Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One



March 2003

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

March 12, 2003
VFW Post 648, Rutland

Seven people attended, including Fred Hellmuth of Pittsford, a new member.

Membership chairman Dick Doyle reported 122 regular members and five associate members, including Roger Rochon of Benson, a new life member. Congratulations are in order to Dick on his recent retirement after 33-plus years of active and reserve service, including several months of active duty in the post-Sept. 11 call-up. Dick served a year in Vietnam with the 1st Infantry Division and the 101st Airborne Division.

The minutes of the Feb. 12 meeting were approved unanimously.

John Clogston, a life member of Chapter One, asked for a letter of support for his son, who is eligible for certain veterans-connected scholarships. We will make an effort to meet him with an eye to supporting his application.

The VVA State Council requested a grant of \$1,000 from Chapter One to be matched by an equal amount in support of the VVA service officer program. The organization has two service officers, Richard Reed and A.J. Paige. The St. Albans and Bennington Chapters have pledged \$1,000. The two men have 34 active cases and have helped obtain \$541,971 in benefits in their second calendar year.

Reed is at P.O. Box 141, Brandon, VT 05733, tel. 802-338-5713 or rvreed@bluemoo.net. Paige is at P.O. Box 1466, White River Junction, VT 05001, tel. 802-295-4136 or apaige@pop.det.state.vt.us.

Jack Crowther moved to pledge the \$1,000, subject to Dick Doyle obtaining further details. Second Larry Young. Passed unanimously.

State Council President Buster Holmberg asked if Chapter One would contribute \$1,000 to the State Council coffers, suggesting the chapter had agreed to contribute that sum to the proposed — and now indefinitely delayed — Vermont Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the Sharon rest stop on Interstate 89. Chapter One is not aware that it promised the money, though it will address support of the memorial when the project is reactivated.

The Green Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts requested a donation of \$100 for support of the scouting program. Dick Doyle moved to approve the contribution. Second, Jack Crowther. Approved unanimously.

Memorial Day ceremonies at the Vermont Veterans Cemetery in Randolph will be May 30. The forming of the colors will take place at 2:45 p.m., with step-off at 3 p.m.

John Miner of the Bennington chapter is a candidate for re-election as Region I director.

Bennington Battle Day ceremonies will begin Aug. 17 at 12:30 p.m. As Chapter One does not have a color guard, we will not be an official participant, though members are welcome to attend.

Chapter One sadly notes the passing of Donald E. Robichaud, 52, of Fitzwilliam, N.H., a life member of Chapter One. Don was an Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War and on the board of a veterans outreach center in Gardner, Mass.

Chapter One normally elects officers for the coming year at the April meeting. The currently serving officers listed below have been nominated to continue for another year. However, additional nominations are welcome. If you would like to serve in an office or on the board or represent the chapter at the State Council, please let an officer know before the April meeting or come to the meeting.

Officers are: John Bergeron, president; Larry Young, vice president; Andy Megrath, treasurer; and Jack Crowther, secretary. In addition to the officers, Chapter One elects five board members. Current non-officer board members are Jon Pintello, Bub Crosby and Walt Crossman Jr. At present, only Larry Young is representing Chapter One at the State Council, but we are entitled to two more representatives, so there's ample opportunity for involvement in chapter doings.

List of email addresses removed for privacy

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, April 9, at 6 p.m. at VFW Post 648, Rutland. We will conduct business, notably election of officers, and perhaps do some more work on the chapter rooms. We'll send out for pizza as those attending may wish.

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary.

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Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One



April 2003

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

April 9, 2003

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Because of limited attendance, six people, elections were postponed until May.

Dick Doyle reported the chapter has 115 regular members, with eight lapsed memberships on March 1. There are four associate members. Peter Burke of Chester is a new life member.

The main portion of the meeting was a report by Richard Thompson Tucker, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Rutland County, who described the organization's programs and showed plans for its new quarters in the former Howard Bank building on Merchants Row. Chapter One had agreed to continue its \$2,500 "corporate sponsorship" of the club but had requested an update on the organization.

Tucker said the club serves about 500 youths, averaging 30 to 50 a day, and operates on an annual budget of about \$315,000 per year. Chapter One is one of seven sponsors at the \$2,500 level.

The club serves young people from 6 to 18 years, many from disadvantaged circumstances, and has an ongoing need for volunteers. About a third of the club's support comes through the national organization.

There was no formal treasurer's report, but the chapter has about \$12,000 in the bank with another \$2,200 to be deposited.

Jack Crowther moved to appropriate \$80 for the State Council for the Vermont Veterans Home picnic. Second Dick Doyle. Passed unanimously. The picnic will be June 28 at the home in Bennington, with volunteers from VVA chapters in Vermont arriving about 10 a.m.

Dick Doyle moved to sponsor a hole for \$300 in the Sons of the American Legion golf benefit, to be held May 17 at Neshobe Country Club. Proceeds benefit a number of charitable organizations, including the Vermont Veteran's Home in Bennington and the Dodge Center in Rutland, a transitional center for homeless veterans.

Loyalty Day will be May 4 in Rutland.

The dedication of Fair Haven's POW/MIA Memorial will take place May 24, immediately following Fair Haven's Memorial Day Parade, which begins between 1 and 1:30 p.m. As a contributors to the memorial (\$500), Chapter One members have been specifically invited to attend. A 24-hour vigil will precede the dedication.

Dick Doyle moved to donate \$100 to the local chapter of the American Red Cross to defray the cost of sending "Care packages" to troops in the Iraq war, assuming such support is still needed. Second John Suddarth. Passed unanimously.

Dick Doyle moved to assist a chapter member with \$400 to help him obtain an apartment. The member is coming off state supervision, and is employed. The money will be paid directly to a landlord and combined with other available support to assist the member, a Vietnam veteran. Second Bub Crosby. Passed unanimously.

**Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, May 14 at 6 p.m. at VFW Post 648, Rutland.
We plan to elect officers for the coming year.**

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary.

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Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One



May 2003

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

May 14, 2003

VFW Post 648, Rutland

A relatively large turnout of 10 people was on hand, including new member Dave Mathis of Rutland; Jim Moulton, a Chapter One member from Newport; and Bill Love, a visitor from White River Junction.

Vice President Larry Young presided in the absence of President John Bergeron.

Minutes of the April meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Andy Megrath reported a total of \$9,609.43 in chapter coffers, cautioning the chapter that a sharp decline in income from ripoff tickets at Tomasi's in Fair Haven means the chapter will have to scrutinize future expenditures more closely. A new American Legion clubrooms in Fair Haven appears to be a prime factor in the drop in income. Fred Helmuth and Bub Crosby will explore getting additional income from a bar they are familiar with in Addison County.

Fred moved to accept the treasurer's report. Second Dick Doyle. Approved unanimously.

Dick Doyle reported the chapter had 119 regular members and four associate members. Gary Herbert from Ascutney is the chapter's newest and 51st life member.

Andy Megrath moved to cast one ballot for the following officer slate: John Bergeron, president; Larry Young, vice president; Andy Megrath, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary. These were the officers for the past year. Second, Jack Crowther. Approved unanimously.

The following nominations were made to the board of directors, adding to the current directors already nominated: Dick Doyle nominated by Jack Crowther, seconded by Larry Young; Bill Whitney nominated by Dick Doyle, seconded by Larry Young; Fred Helmuth nominated by Andy Megrath, seconded by Jack Crowther.

Dick Doyle moved to elect Bub Crosby, Walt Crossmon Jr., Dick Doyle, Bill Whitney and Fred Helmuth to the board of directors. Second Jack Crowther. Approved unanimously.

Jack Crowther moved to have Fred Helmuth and Bub Crosby approach The Otter Creek Tavern in Vergennes about the possibility of selling ripoff tickets and report back. Second Dick Doyle. Approved unanimously. Fred and Bub will check with the newly formed Bristol VVA chapter, since the tavern is in that group's neighborhood.

Email addresses removed for privacy

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Andy Megrath noted that other chapters don't publish their financial figures. Should Chapter One continue to do so? Dick Doyle spoke in support of the chapter's openness on the matter. No changes were made.

The annual picnic hosted by VVA at the Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington will be June 28, beginning about 10 a.m. VVA members serve typical picnic fare to the residents of the home and enjoy the noon meal with them.

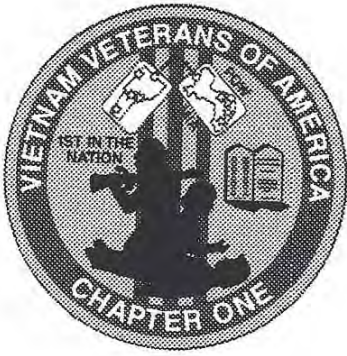
**Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, June 11 at 6 p.m. at VFW Post 648, Rutland.
We hope to spend the first part of the meeting organizing and sorting our large photo collection,
then move on to the business portion of the meeting.**

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary.

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Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One

June 2003



REPORT OF CHAPTER MEETING

June 11, 2003

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Four people attended, so no formal business was conducted.

The chapter has about \$9,500 in its treasury, according to President John Bergeron.

Fred Helmuth said we just missed out on finding another bar to sell ripoff tickets for the chapter, as another non-profit organization enlisted the bar (located in Vergennes) first.

We need a new flag for the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial, as our American flag has begun to fray.

Friends of Veterans has requested a contribution. Dick Doyle is involved in the group, so we'll await his recommendation.

Jack Crowther said he had located a used computer for about \$100. Based on informal approval of the idea of getting it, to allow President Bergeron to have e-mail and word processing, Jack said he would get the computer and ask for reimbursement at a future meeting.

A note from John Miner, Bennington VVA chapter president, Vermont State Council vice president and national VVA Region 1 director, indicates the Vermont Vietnam Memorial at the Sharon rest area on Interstate 89 is back on track and that there could be a ground breaking Nov. 11!

VVA's national's president sent an e-mail indicating that a VVA membership directory is moving forward. This will allow you to look up friends from the service, if they are VVA members and choose to be listed.

Email list deleted for privacy

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary.

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Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One



July 2003

REPORT OF CHAPTER MEETING

July 9, 2003

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Five members were present. The meeting was conducted informally.

Chapter membership stands at 122 regular members according to the latest roster from VVA national. There are four associate members.

~~\$16,995.48~~
\$10,968.73

Treasurer Andy Megrath reported that the chapter has ~~\$16,995.48~~ in its bank accounts.

Jack Crowther moved that the chapter approve an expenditure of up to \$150 for a used computer to allow President John Bergeron to send and receive e-mail, do word processing and perform other computer tasks. Second Larry Young. Passed unanimously.

A weeding and spruce-up session was scheduled at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial for July 12. Thanks to the Rutland Garden Club and the efforts of several Chapter 1 members, the memorial has been brightened up with new plantings, a mounding of earth at the north and south ends, fresh mulch and pruning. The July 12 work will help complete this summer's maintenance effort.

Reliable accounts indicated that with the release of federal funds, the \$6 million Vietnam Memorial at the Sharon Rest Stop on Interstate 89 will break ground this coming Veterans Day.

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Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary.

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Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One

August 2003



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

Aug. 13, 2003

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Seven members were present.

Treasurer Andy Megrath reported a balance in the chapter bank accounts of \$11,072.19. Andy reports that last month's balance was \$10,968.73. The figure reported in last month's newsletter of \$16,995.48 was incorrect.

Membership chairman Dick Doyle reports by e-mail that there are 122 current regular members and four associate members, including new life member William Sweeney of Fair Haven and new member Gerald Leach Sr. of East Wallingford.

There was some discussion about the criteria for eligibility for inclusion of names on the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which lists those who "Served in the Vietnam War," as well as those "Killed in Action."

Jack Crowther moved that the rules be clarified to include on the memorial those who received the Vietnam Service Medal and entered the service from Rutland County. This would include, for example, someone stationed in Thailand during the war who received the Vietnam Service Medal, even if he or she was not in Vietnam. Second, Andy Megrath. Passed unanimously.

Chapter One board member Bub Crosby, who was with the Air Force in Thailand and entered the service from Brandon, expressed appreciation for his inclusion on the memorial list.

Chapter One is about to update the "Served in the Vietnam War" list. Anyone wishing to have their name listed should submit a DD214 service record form to the address on the other side of this newsletter. We are anxious to include as many eligible veterans as possible.

The American Legion Auxiliary in Montpelier requested support for a "standdown" event on Oct. 25 in Burlington to assist homeless veterans.

Jack Crowther moved that Chapter One donate \$100. Second James Moulton. There was discussion over whether the chapter should support an activity in Burlington when the chapter's income has been sharply reduced, as noted by Treasurer Andy Megrath. By a vote of 3-2 with one abstention, it was decided not to make the donation.

Email list deleted for privacy

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Harlan Hatfield also maintains a Web site dedicated to a World War II outfit his uncle was in. If you want to check it out, it is www.500thbsq-b25s.com/.

The following e-mail was forwarded to us from Clayton A. Clark, veteran services coordinators of the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs:

Just a reminder that for veterans who entered military service from Vermont, or have applied for a state benefit administered by the Office of Veterans Affairs since moving to Vermont, that our office can provide immediate service for discharge requests. Requests must be in person, via fax, or via mail. Those who request in person generally walk out with their record. Fax and mail requests are mailed the day after we receive them. Only the veteran, or their next of kin if the veteran is deceased, may request the records.

The contact information is: Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs, 118 State Street Drawer 20, Montpelier, VT 05620, telephone (802) 828-3379, fax (802) 828-5932.

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, Sept. 10, at 6 p.m. at VFW Post 648, Rutland.

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary.

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VVA Chapter 1
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Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One

September 2003



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

Sept. 10, 2003

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Six members were present.

Chapter One welcomes new member John E. Smith of Middletown Springs.

We received a thank-you from the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Vermont, for our \$300 contribution to their recent benefit golf tournament, which raised \$14,500 for veterans' and children's programs in Vermont.

Treasurer Andy Megrath reported \$10,405.87 in the chapter's three bank accounts.

Andy will get a new flag for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Main Street Park to replace the current flag, which is frayed.

Discussion of insurance: The chapter will continue with its bonding insurance for the officers of the chapter, dealing directly with the agency instead of through the national VVA in order to "avoid the middleman." This insurance costs about \$100 per year.

The chapter will have to acquire liability insurance to cover its occupancy of the club rooms at the VFW. This protects us from claims of an injury on the premises and covers property damage. We must present the VFW with a certificate showing we have the coverage.

Jack Crowther moved to authorize Andy Megrath to acquire the coverage at a cost not to exceed \$450 after checking coverages available. Second, Bub Crosby. Passed unanimously.

The Green Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts will hold its Fifth Annual Statewide Veterans Parade Day Nov. 1 at 11 a.m. in Windsor.

President John Bergeron relayed a message from VVA national urging vets to contact their congressmen to urge support for adequate funding for health care for veterans. VVA is advocating a \$28.5 billion budget for veterans health care in the fiscal year 2004 budget. More information is available at govtrelations@vva.org.

A radio station, WOKO, has raised sufficient money to pay for the Vermont Veterans Medal and Distinguished Service Medal for all those who applied for them.

Chapter One is finishing its latest additions to the Honor Roll of those who served in the Vietnam War for the memorial in Main Street Park. We hope to have the new display ready by Veterans Day.

The Chapter One members listed below have sent in their e-mail addresses to share with other members. Anyone who

would like to add their name to the list can simply e-mail Dick Doyle, who is maintaining the list. Dick's e-mail is in the list below

Email list deleted for privacy

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 6 p.m. at VFW Post 648, Rutland.

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary.

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Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One

October 2003



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

Oct. 8, 2003

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Five members were present and guests Norman and Victoria Hawley of Mendon.

Dick Doyle reported that the Bristol chapter of VVA has received its charter as Chapter 926, the eighth Vermont chapter of VVA. Its Web site is www.vva926.org.

Dick Doyle reported that current membership stands at 120 regular members and four associate members.

The chapter acquired a used computer and basic software for \$100 in order to give President John Bergeron some basic computer capabilities and e-mail. We will publish the chapter e-mail address as soon as the account is set up.

Dick Doyle moved to subsidize the cost of Internet service at \$10 per month for 12 months, to be re-evaluated after a year. Second Bill Whitney. Passed unanimously.

Andy Megrath talked about the possibility of a book presentation in Rutland by Gordon Cucullu, a novelist and veteran. He is from the Catskills region of New York. A Vermont visit around the time of Veterans Day is in the works, and Andy will check on his schedule for a possible visit to the Rutland area. Cucullu has written several books, including Separated at Birth, set in Korea.

Andy Megrath has acquired an insurance policy for the chapter. It provides \$1 million of liability protection, as well as fire and medical coverage. Cost is \$355 per year. This coverage was needed by the chapter as a tenant in VFW Post 648. Andy reports a total balance of \$9,716.20 in the chapter's bank accounts.

Don Amorosi will attend our next meeting and present a photograph of the Fair Haven POW/MIA monument as a gesture of thanks for Chapter One's \$500 contribution toward the monument.

John Bergeron reported on the funeral of Stanley "Stosh" Dulski, a longtime Chapter One member, who died recently.

On the suggestion of Dick Doyle, Jack Crowther moved to offer Gene Miner, who is ill, a membership in Chapter One, to be paid by the chapter. Second Bill Whitney. Passed unanimously.

Vice President Larry Young has ordered both the bound volume and CD of the latest VVA directory, due to be published soon. He will donate the CD to the chapter.

Dick Doyle noted a move in the area to subsidize World War II vets for a trip to Washington for the dedication of the World War II Memorial next Memorial Day.

John Bergeron will gather more information on a local organization providing support for families of Army Reservists serving in Iraq. Chapter One may be able to help.

Andy Megrath and Larry Young Plan to attend a luncheon of the Rutland Garden Club Oct. 14. The club is hosting a variety of local organizations for whom the club has provided ongoing beautification work. The club has worked on the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Main Street Park each year since 2000.

Andy Megrath has acquired a new five-by-eight flag for the memorial.

The Chapter One members listed below have sent in their e-mail addresses to share with other members. Anyone who would like to add their name to the list can simply e-mail Dick Doyle, who is maintaining the list. Dick's e-mail is in the list below.

Email list omitted for privacy

A Department of Veterans Affairs press release says that some veterans waiting to see VA physicians for the first time may be eligible to receive medications from VA mail-out pharmacies that were prescribed by private doctors, under a policy announced in July. You must have enrolled in VA health care before July 25, 2003, and meet some other conditions.

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 6 p.m., the day after Veterans Day. We plan to install the updated version of the Honor Roll at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Main Street Park, then move to our rooms at VFW Post 648 for our regular meeting. Eighteen names will be added to the "Served in the Vietnam War" list. The total is now 253 who "served" and 18 "killed in action."

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary.

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VVA Chapter 1
PO Box 6301
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Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One

November 2003



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

Nov. 12, 2003

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Prior to the meeting, we gathered at Main Street Park to install the updated Honor Roll at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial. A small group of perhaps 10 to 15 people attended based on publicity for the event. With the addition of 18 names, the Honor Roll now includes 244 names of those who served in the war. This represents a near doubling of the names since the original Honor Roll was installed on Memorial Day of 2000, when there were approximately 125 names. The Honor Roll also includes the names of 18 men from Rutland County killed in action in the war.

The chapter already has a handful of new names, based on submission of a DD 214 service record for the next updating of the list. Thanks are again due to Mike Gauthier of Green Screen Graphics for his assistance in preparing the new version of the honor roll.

Following the brief ceremony at the memorial, the chapter held its regular monthly meeting at Post 648.

The chapter notes with appreciation a generous donation by Marjorie Dyer of Mendon.

Dick Doyle reports by e-mail that regular membership stands at 121 members including new member Douglas MacPhee of Bellows Falls.

Treasurer Andy Megrath reports \$9,354.94 in the chapter's three checking accounts.

The chapter welcomed Sandy Pinsonault, with her daughter, Sarah, for a discussion of the Family Readiness Group for Co. C, 368th Engineers of the Army Reserve, normally based in Rutland and now serving in Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Eighty-eight people from the Rutland company have been joined by others assigned to the unit from around the country for a total of 134 now serving with the unit.

Sandy is the wife of 1st Sgt. Danny Pinsonault, who is with the unit. The readiness group, though mandated by the military as a home front support organization, receives no funding, according to Sandy. The group offers support for families of those serving, raising funds to help with bill payments, sending packages overseas to the troops, offering moral support, helping to manage stress on families, and holding monthly meetings. The group can raise funds but may not actively solicit support. The unit is expected home in April.

Following the presentation, Jack Crowther moved to donate \$500 to the Family Readiness Group, Second Andy Megrath. Passed unanimously.

Don Amorosi of Glens Falls, N.Y., active in Vietnam veterans affairs and particularly POW-MIA issues, attended to present a nicely framed photo and letter of thanks to Chapter 1 for its donation of \$500 to the Fair Haven POW-MIA monument. The monument was installed earlier this year at the center of town.

Andy Megrath presented a framed picture of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Main Street Park. The photo was given to Andy and Larry Young, Chapter 1 vice president, when they attended a recent luncheon put on by the Rutland Garden Club. The club, a great help and supporter of Chapter 1 and the memorial, has continued with plantings and attention since its construction.

The Chapter One members listed below have sent in their e-mail addresses to share with other members. Anyone who would like to add their name to the list can simply e-mail Dick Doyle, who is maintaining the list. Dick's e-mail is in the list below.

Email list deleted for privacy

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 6 p.m. at VFW Post 648.

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary.

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Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One



December 2003

REPORT OF CHAPTER MEETING

Dec. 10, 2003

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Five members attended. As a result of the small turnout, the meeting was conducted informally with no action taken.

Membership Chairman Dick Doyle reports by e-mail that we have 121 current members. Two new memberships are in the works. The chapter also has four associate members, friends and relatives of Vietnam veterans who want to support VVA, even if they lack the service requirements for regular membership.

President John Bergeron noted that there has been some discussion by a group that is considering changes to Main Street Park, on the southern end of which sits the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Though the changes appear to be only in the talking stages, the concept envisions some coordination and perhaps movement of existing memorials (but no moving of the Vietnam Memorial). If changes take a firmer shape, they are sure to receive local news coverage.

With the year about to end, John suggested the chapter ought to have a project for the coming year. One possibility would be to improve the lighting on the flag at the memorial in Main Street Park. Although the flag receives some illumination from the nearby streetlight, the consensus seems to be that the flag should be better lit.

The Chapter One members listed below have sent in their e-mail addresses to share with other members. Anyone who would like to add their name to the list can simply e-mail Dick Doyle, who is maintaining the list. Dick's e-mail is in the list below.

Email list deleted for privacy

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 6 p.m. at VFW Post 648.

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary.

THANKS TO CENTRAL VERMONT PUBLIC SERVICE CORP. SHAREHOLDERS FOR PRINTING THIS NEWSLETTER.